Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places: an Australian perspective
PLACENAME DICTIONARIES AND DICTIONARIES OF PLACES:
AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE

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ANPS OCCASIONAL PAPER
No. 5

2019
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1 INTRODUCTION

Toponyms denote or identify human habitation sites (cities, towns, villages etc.), natural geographic features (mountains, rivers, lakes, bays, seas etc.), and political precincts (states, municipalities, parishes etc.). They also identify and reflect culture, heritage and landscape, and therefore offer much to cartographers, geographers, historians, genealogists, linguists, language planners and tourists. In addition, toponyms are a vehicle for public and personal reference (Kostanski, 2009). In the former, they are used for location delineation and identification (e.g. for emergency services, postal services, deliveries, communication, defence, navigation etc.). They can also function as powerful political tools (as in, for example, the renaming of 69 German placenames in South Australia because of anti-German sentiment during World War I, the territorial disputes in the South China Sea, or the dispute between Greece and the former Yugoslav republic’s use of the name Macedonia).

As a mechanism for personal reference, toponyms play an integral part in personal identity, because people always associate themselves with one or more places (e.g. where they were born, live/have lived, where their ancestors came from etc.). A person’s identity is defined by many things, two of which are place (of origin, residence etc.) and their language variety. Toponyms allow these two dimensions to be communicated (see Figure 1).

People have very strong connections to placenames because they are linking agents or symbols of attachment between themselves and a place. For example, in 1993 a new virus was isolated in the Four Corners area of south-western United States. Residents so vehemently objected to its being named ‘Four Corners virus’ or ‘Muerto Canyon Virus’ (for obvious reasons) that it was ultimately named ‘Sin Nombre virus’, which in Spanish means ‘No Name virus’ (Strauss and Strauss, 2008).

The naming of places is, therefore, a core human activity and concern. Places without names are merely spaces. We can say that a place is space with meaning attached, brought about by human interaction with a place and recognised through its name (Kostanski, 2009). A toponym is therefore a sine qua non for the existence of a place.
For all these reasons, placenames generate much interest in most people. For instance, radio station switchboards usually run hot when talkback broadcasters discuss placenames. This interest is also reflected by the numerous placename publications that are available. Indeed, more placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places are published than any other type of dictionary. Such publications are known by a variety of names: ‘(Geographical) Gazetteer’, ‘Placename Dictionary’, ‘Toponym Dictionary’, ‘Dictionary of Places’, ‘Dictionary of Geographical Names’, and perhaps most commonly, ‘Geographical Dictionary’.

Toponyms constitute a very distinct class of proper noun, and therefore require a special type of onomastic publication. A given toponym is the expression of the relationship between a place and its name; e.g. _Camperdown_ (NSW) and _Camperdown_ (VIC) are different toponyms, not the same toponym appearing in different places. In other words, a toponym is ‘the name of a specific place’, not ‘a name for places’. In fact, according to the international gazetteer _GeoNames_ there are 22 places in the world with the name-form _Camperdown_ (Table1), each of which would require a distinct entry in a gazetteer or a placename dictionary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Feature Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>3 x Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 x POPULATED PLACE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>1 x POPULATED PLACE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2 x POPULATED PLACE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>3 x POPULATED PLACE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>1 x Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1 x ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 x Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1 x POPULATED PLACE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>5 x Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 x MINE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.

The world’s _Camperdowns_

If there were a single entry for _Camperdown_ in a gazetteer or placename dictionary, it would be like having a single entry for _John Howard_ (that represented all the ‘John Howards’) in a dictionary of biography or in Wikipedia. The different ‘John Howards’ are distinct people with distinct histories. The same applies to toponyms. They are distinct places or locations, with distinct histories. An Australian placename dictionary must therefore have separate entries for the _Camperdown_ NSW and another for the _Camperdown_ in Victoria.
In general terms, placename dictionaries fall under the category of ‘specialist/specialised dictionary’. Such dictionaries are restricted either in their headword list, or in the content of their articles, or in both. For example, in a strictly onomastic dictionary (i.e. a dictionary of names) the headwords are proper names, and the articles are largely etymological. A true placename dictionary is even more specialised: it is an onomastic dictionary in which the proper names are toponyms.

Any resource which has, as its prime purpose, the presentation of information about places is a gazetteer. Some of these are highly formal in layout and restrict themselves to listing places identified by location and feature type. Others may display additional interesting information about the places and their names, and may do so in a comparatively informal style; if one of these presents its entries alphabetically, it may be referred to as a ‘dictionary of places’.

Resources with the prime purpose of giving information about the names of places are toponym dictionaries or dictionaries of placenames. (Because they exist to present information about a linguistic form—a placename—they do so in alphabetical order of the toponyms, and generally bear the name of ‘dictionary’.) Because every placename is attached to a particular place, these publications always need to specify the location and feature type of that place; they therefore must include, as gazetteers do, some technical or encyclopedic information along with the linguistic information about the name.

So gazetteers may include in their entries some linguistic and historical information about the name of the place; and placename dictionaries must include some information about the place itself in order to identify it. For this reason it is not necessarily obvious at first glance which category the resource falls into; a number of entries may have to be examined to establish what the primary intent of the resource actually is.

The following sections review a variety of publications related to placenames.

Naturally, the list is not exhaustive, but covers a sufficient number and variety of examples to be considered reasonably representative. In order to provide as broad a spectrum as possible, specimens are not restricted to publications on Australian placenames only. As will be seen, the structure and contents of the examples varies considerably. The following sections classify the publications into the two main types: gazetteers, and placename dictionaries.
2 PLACENAME PUBLICATIONS

2.1 The earliest publications

Until recent times almost all dictionaries that listed places and their names were gazetteers. One of the very few exceptions was the first known work to be properly termed a ‘geographical’ or ‘placename’ dictionary: Stephanus of Byzantium’s Ethnica, compiled in the early fifth century. It was prepared for grammatical purposes and detailed the gentile names of places and countries in the ancient world. It took another 500 years for the next geographical dictionary to be compiled, and this too was motivated by an interest in philology. It concentrated on toponyms in Arabia (i.e. ones that were mentioned in the Koran and other Islamic texts). Three more such dictionaries were published in the Islamic world during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

Little interest was shown in compiling such works in Europe during the Middle Ages. However, in 1493 a rising interest in geographical dictionaries or gazetteers was marked by the publication of Orbis Breviarium by Zaccaria Lilio, Bishop of Sebaste (Figure 2). Several editions of this work were published.

Figure 2.
Title page of Zaccaria Lilio’s Orbis Breviarium
Then in 1578, Abraham Ortelius published his *Synonymia Geographica*, the first significant geographical dictionary of the modern era (Figures 3a & 3b). A revised and enlarged edition was published as *Thesaurus Geographica* in 1587. There were two later editions of this volume over the ensuing 20 years.

In 1599, John Thorius [aka Thorie or Thorio] published a pocket-sized encyclopedic-style dictionary of places, *The Theatre of the Earth. Containing Very Short and Compendious Descriptions of All Countries, Gathered Out of the Cheefeest Cosmographers, Both Ancient and Modern, and Disposed in Alphabeticall Order. [...]*. It alphabetically listed short accounts of towns, cities, a variety of geographical features, and countries in general.

From the mid-seventeenth through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries a plethora of geographical dictionaries were published. A few of these were etymological in nature, tracing the linguistic origin of toponyms, but most were simply encyclopedic. Some of these include (sample entries are provided where possible):

- **Philippus Ferrarius (1657)** *Lexicon geographicum, in quo universi orbis oppida, urbes, regiones, provinciae, regna, emporia, academae, metropoles, fontes, flumina, & maria antiquis recentibusque nominibus appellata, suisque distantii descripta recensentur [...]*
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

Figure 4.
Title page of Philippus Ferrarius’ *Lexicon geographicum* (1738 edition)

- **Pierre Duval (1662)** *A geographical dictionary in which are described the most eminent countreys, towns, ports, seas, streights, and rivers in the whole world.* […]

As two sample entry citations show, very limited information is given in the articles:

- **Amsterdam**, the chief Town of Holland, a place of the greatest traffique in Europe. (p. 6)
- **Gronengue**, a Town and Seigniory, one of the united provinces. (p. 55)

Often the information provided for a placename is inexplicit, and at times rather subjective in a ‘Johnsonesque’ way: for example:

- **Aarbourg, or Aarberg**, a pleasant little Town in Switzerland, full of wealthy Tradesmen, tempted to fix their Habitations there by the Pleasantness of the Situation, and the frequent Marts there holden.
• Robert Morden (1680) *Geography rectified: or, A description of the world in all its kingdoms, provinces, countries, islands, cities, towns, seas, rivers, bays, capes, ports; their ancient and present names, inhabitants, situations, histories, customs, governments, &c.* [...]

This is an interesting publication in that it is, in effect, a largely descriptive text-heavy atlas (York 2013). And as its title suggests, it is unlike any other geographic dictionary. Morden takes what we might call, an ‘ontological’ approach to places: the entries display a hierarchical classification. Toponyms are grouped under distinct countries or regions, each of which is again articulated in a number of subfields, leading the reader from concepts (in this case ‘countries/regions’) to expressions (‘toponyms’).
From a lexicographical viewpoint, Morden’s approach is ‘onomasiological’, rather than the standard ‘semasiological’ approach of geographical dictionaries. Morden groups toponyms under specific countries or regions (see Figure 6). In a purely semasiological approach toponyms would be listed alphabetically.

Amidst the general history and description of the United Provinces, or, Dutch Republic, one finds the following articles on Amsterdam and Groningen, providing brief details on their histories, commercial significance, and relative locations:

**Amsterdam**, Situate on the Lake, or Sea, called the *Tie*, and the Dike or Channel called *Amstel* in Latin; and by the late Addition of the new to the old, may now vie with the richest and fairest Cities of the World: famous for the great Trade to the utmost parts of the Earth; and as famous to some for its Toleration of all Religions. 'Tis the Market or Shop, where the Rarities and Commodities of all Countries are exposed to Sale. (pp. 142-143)

**Groningen**, that has the last voice in the Assembly of the States-General, has but two Cities, Groningen, Groninga, and Dam, Damum. Groningen is of that consequence, by reason of its situation on the Frontiers, that the Duke of Alva had designed a Citadel there. In the year 1672, the Bishop of Munster not able to take that City, yet took several other Towns from the Dutch. The Province is full pasturage which affords good stuff for siring. (p.146)

- **Edmund Bohun (1691)** *A geographical dictionary representing the present and ancient names of all the counties, provinces, remarkable cities, universities, ports, towns, mountains, seas, straits, fountains, and rivers of the whole world: [...]*
This work provides somewhat more detail on Amsterdam and Groeningen in its articles, offering more comprehensive historical notes, as well as comments on commerce and their relative locations:

**Amsterdam, Amstelodamium**, is the chief Town of the Province of Holland, seated upon the River Y am. It is a new City, first Fortified in 1492, but within this last hundred Years it has received its greatest growth, and is now one of the greatest Marts in Europe. It takes its Name from the River Amstel, which glides by it; and has a large, convenient, and a well-traded-haven. The Riches, number of Ships, and Merchants belonging to it, are equal to those of most Cities in Christendom. It was taken by the Hollanders under Prince William of Nassau, from the Spaniards, in 1578, having been heretofore one of the Imperial Cities: it stands about two Leagues from the Zuider Sea, and four from Utrecht. § The Hollanders have given the Name of Amsterdam to an Island in the Frisian Sea, toward Greenland. To a Town and Port of theirs in their Colonies in the Northern America. To an Island in the Indian Ocean, betwixt Madagascar and new Holland. And lastly, to another Island by them discover’d towards Japan. (pp. 14-15)

**Groeningen, Groeninga**, one of the Cities belonging to the United Provinces; great, populous, rich, very strong, and the Capital of a Province of the same name; having been heretofore the Capital of Friesland. It stands upon the small River Hoonmister, where it receives the Damser; honored with a Bishops See, by Pope Paul IV, and with an University, opened here A. D. 1615. It has a strong Castle, which was in vain attacked by the Bishop of Munster in 1672. It stands three French Leagues from Dam to the West, towards Leuwaerden, from which it stands eight Miles to the East. Heretofore a Free Imperial City, but now exempted; and is one of the States united in the Dutch League. § Het Groeningelandt, the Province belonging to this City, was heretofore a part of Friesland. Its present bounds on the North, are the German Ocean, and the overflown Shallows; on the West Friesland, divided from it by the River Lavica; on the South Overyssel; and on the East East-Friesland, from which it is divided by the vast Lake called Dullert. The principal City is Groeningen. It was of old subject to the Bishop of Utrecht, from whom the City revolted, and put it self [sic] under the Duke of Guelderland in 1515. It submitted also to Charles V in 1536, and under that Family continued till 1594, when it was taken by the Forces of the United Provinces, from the Spaniards. This Province enjoys the last Voice in the Assemblies of the States General. (p. 176)

- **Laurence Echard (1692)** *The gazettier’s, or Newsman’s interpreter: being a geographical index of all the considerable cities, patriarchships, bishopricks, universities, dukedoms, earldoms, and such like: [...]*

The format of Echard’s entries appears quite cryptic, in that a kind of shorthand is used in the articles, no doubt to save space (always at a premium in print dictionaries—see also Figures 3b, 9, 20). He does, however, provide a ‘Clavis’ (lit. a ‘key’ or glossary of abbreviations used) at the beginning of the work to guide the hapless reader. One feature included in Echard’s work which is not seen in contemporary publications is an indication of approximate distances from major cities and towns, with coordinates. This is a step towards the modern form of gazetteer, although subjective description remains a feature, with remarks on the wealth, strength or beauty of the two cities:


subject to the States. It stands on the River Hoerenster, 30 miles E. of Leeuwarden, 60 N. of Deventer, and 86 N.E. of Amsterdam. Lon. 25.20. Lat. 53.22. (n.p.)

In summary, what can be said about early placename publications is that they were, to all intents and purposes, encyclopedic in nature with occasional reference to the coordinates of a place. Variations in spelling were also sometimes provided, but the provision of etymologies for toponyms was not seen as important. This is not surprising given that historical linguistic lexicology had not been developed at that time. Information regarding the history and commercial significance of a place was of paramount importance in these publications.

2.2 Background to modern publications

It is now common for publications on placenames or places to be unscholarly, populist in nature and with a focus on what are perceived to be humorous or ‘rude’ names. (Figure 47, on page 51 below, is a prime example.) These works are of little value to the serious toponymist or researcher, because the information they provide is regularly inaccurate, unreliable (often based on folk etymology) and inconsistent in format. Well-known or important placenames are routinely omitted. Moreover, many publications that contain Australian Indigenous words and placenames make no effort to distinguish between one Aboriginal language and another. Rather, they classify all such items as ‘Aboriginal’, as if to say there is only one Aboriginal language (see Figure 7, and others below). This is not only wrong, but disrespectful. It is akin to recording Sāmoan, Māori, Tongan, Tahitian, Tuvaluan, Marquesan, Hawaiian, etc. words and placenames in one catalogue and labelling them as belonging to the ‘Polynesian’ language.

| Coogee NSW | Aboriginal. Rotting seaweed, Stinking place, or Smell of seaweed. The original word may have been Koojah. |

Modern publications display the same distinction we have previously made between ‘placename dictionaries’ and ‘dictionaries of places’. The former, primarily concerned with information about the toponym itself, particularly its linguistic form and history, are dealt with in section 2.3 below. The latter, listed in section 2.4, are encyclopedic in nature, presenting information about the places to which the toponyms refer, though they may on occasion also contain information on the toponym’s origin. Some publications are a blend of the two, and this is inevitable, for two reasons: firstly, even toponym dictionaries must identify the ‘place’ to which the toponym is attached, and secondly, even lists of places require the presence of the toponymic form to identify their entries.

Placename publications can be found online, but they are uncommon; they are usually online versions of their printed counterparts (see section 2.5), and they lean more towards the format of ‘dictionaries of places’.
The meanings and origins of the placenames provided in many dictionaries of places are often wrong or misleading—the result of imaginative guesswork, as is particularly the case for a vast number of Indigenous placenames. This is most unfortunate because, as Clark and Heydon (2002:7) rightly maintain, the accurate recording of Indigenous toponyms, together with their origins and meanings is: ‘… a valuable part of Aboriginal language research, retrieval, and restoration. This is particularly so in southeast Australia, where in many places, placenames constitute the largest surviving bodies of Indigenous language in widespread currency. Furthermore, they are an important component of Aboriginal cultural heritage …’ Some of the reasons for the spurious recording of these culturally important names are outlined in Tent (2018b).

The following sections present some sample entries from these various types of publications. As will be seen, the selection shows the wide range in the nature of these resources. They range from short-form gazetteers (showing only names, feature type, and coordinates); etymological placename dictionaries, such as Ekwall’s (1960) *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names* (see Figures 8, 19); dictionaries of places which focus on encyclopaedic information, such as Appleton and Appleton’s (1992) *The Cambridge Dictionary of Australian Places* (see Figure 39); to whimsical and facetious publications such as Robson’s (2007) *Yorkey’s Knob: Weird and wonderful Australian place names* (see Figure 47). However, before we examine examples of placename publications, a few words about dictionaries and their internal structures are in order.

Dictionaries can be seen to have two internal structures: the ‘macrostructure’ and the ‘microstructure’. The macrostructure is the overall size, scope and arrangement of the headword list of the dictionary. The choice of headwords will determine the ultimate macrostructure of the dictionary (e.g. whether it contains proper names or not, or archaic words or not). Print dictionaries are of course limited in their scope and size, so the choice of what is included (in other words, the wordlist) is crucial. The microstructure, on the other hand, is the arrangement and content of the entries themselves. The type, purpose and size of a dictionary will determine the microstructure of its entries; consequently, a dictionary’s macro- and microstructures are interdependent. The microstructure of an entry has two main components: a ‘formal comment’ and a ‘semantic comment’. The formal comment includes: the headword (in our case the toponym), its spelling, pronunciation, morphology (i.e. the toponym’s elements where relevant), and its etymology. It may also include the location of the toponym. The semantic comment consists of the senses of the toponym’s elements. In dictionaries of places this comment is important, and includes encyclopedic information such as the history of the named place and other information deemed relevant.

Another way of looking at the microstructure of an entry in a placename publication is to distinguish between the *technical properties* of a placename and the *cultural properties*. The technical properties generally include such features as: status of the name (‘official’/‘unofficial’); gazetted date; local government area (LGA); latitude and longitude; map numbers and map references. Other technical properties may be more linguistic in nature, such as the designation of appropriate feature terms (e.g. STREAM, BAY, LAKE, MOUNT etc.). Such technical properties are typically found in state/territory and national gazetteers.
Building upon the technical data of a placename, the cultural properties can then be recorded. These include such details as the historical and social features of placenames. In order to assemble this information we need to ask the following WH- questions for each placename:

- **WHAT** is the name (and previous names)?
- **WHAT** does it mean?
- **WHO** bestowed the name?
- **WHEN** was the name bestowed?
- **WHY** was this name chosen?
- **WHERE** does the name come from? (e.g. Indigenous or Introduced/copied from a different region; transferred from a different location?)

Often this kind of information is found in dictionaries of places too, even though these questions are at the heart of what placename dictionaries are designed to answer.

Perhaps the most important technical property of a strict placename dictionary is the etymological information about its toponyms. Toponyms often comprise two or more meaningful elements (morphemes), e.g. Randwick < Old English (OE) *rīnd* ‘hill, ridge’ + OE *wīc* ‘dwelling, dwelling place, hamlet, village, (dairy) farm’. Such elements may also be given their own distinct entries in the dictionary, e.g. Ekwall’s *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names* (Figure 8):
In a traditional general language dictionary, etymologies of headwords, if they are included, normally appear at the end of an entry, and are traditionally placed between square brackets, thus […]. However, some dictionaries (especially dictionaries on historical principles) present etymologies immediately after the headword. Many true placename dictionaries follow this convention.

### 2.3 Dictionaries of placenames

True placename dictionaries are specialist dictionaries that, after identifying a place, record the etymology and meaning of the placename. The emphasis is on the linguistic form (both current and past) of the toponym. As the examples below will show, many such dictionaries are in effect historical dictionaries and are scholarly in both intent and presentation. Others are designed for a more popular circulation, and have less scholarly content in their entries.

Examples below are divided accordingly, with the more academic publications first and the more popular to follow.
• **Bright (2004) Native American Placenames of the United States** is a scholarly publication of some 600 pages and over 11,000 toponyms. It contains a five-page pronunciation guide to Native American languages. This is followed by a detailed 12-page introduction outlining the process of the dictionary’s compilation, the selection of headwords, and a detailed outline of the entry microstructure. The introduction also includes a detailed proposal for a typology of toponyms. The microstructure of entries is as follows:

**Toponym**
- State, County
- Pronunciation
- Etymology (the main body of the entry), many of which are accompanied by bibliographical references
- Other places where the name or name-element occurs
- Related placenames and variations in spelling and pronunciation

![Sample entry from Native American Placenames of the United States](image)

**Figure 9.** Sample entry from Native American Placenames of the United States

• **Cassidy (2009) Dane County Place-names** is a comprehensive dictionary of regional placenames in Dane County, Wisconsin. It includes an Appendix which provides detailed definitions for the feature terms used, as well as a typology for the toponyms. Although the toponyms in the body of the dictionary are not individually classified under this typology, two detailed tables show the numbers of each geographic feature for each of the 15 toponym categories in the typology. Some analysis of the data is also provided in the Appendix. Where possible the following information, in the form of a narrative discussion (unlike most placename dictionaries), is provided for each toponym:

**Toponym** (present spelling; obsolete names indicated by a preceding *)
- Type of feature label
- Variant spellings, with dates
Pronunciation
Etymology or providence
Circumstances and people involved
Reference to sources of evidence
Degree and level of usage
Location & special range
Other names which the feature bears or has borne

**Figure 1.**
Sample entry from *Dane County Place-names*

- **Clark & Heydon (2002) Dictionary of Placenames of Victoria** is another scholarly work, and documents some 3,400 toponyms of indigenous origin. A work such as this is important in rectifying the failure to properly acknowledge the source languages of Indigenous-derived toponyms that is so often seen in placename publications. As Figure 11 shows, headwords that are now Introduced toponyms are followed by their original Indigenous name(s). The dictionary has as its three main aims the recording of the following elements:
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

- indigenous placenames currently in use
- indigenous placenames for features and places which currently possess an introduced name
- indigenous names of features and places that are currently unofficially named.

The microstructure of entries is as follows:

**Toponym** (introduced); **traditional Aboriginal name(s)**

- Meaning
- Language of origin
- [Local Government Area; Grid Reference; Aboriginal Language Area]
- History of existing name
- Source(s) of reference

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**Gobur; Gobur; kookaburra; [Murrindindi; 8023 55 764020; Daungwurrung]; district NNW of Alexandra previously known as Godfrey's Creek; also Godfrey Creek, aka Gobur Creek, tributary of Home Ck; Blake 1977: 110; Nicholson 2002.**

**Godfrey Creek; Yarark;** of the long river; Daungwurrung; [Murrindindi; 8023 55 764956; Daungwurrung]; Yarack (q.v.); Robinson jnl, 6/4/1840.

**Gog and Magog; Banjin yalug;** vegetable food -yaluk = creek; western Kulin; [Northern Grampians; 7324-2-2 54 248164; Jardwadjali]; Feature nr Mt Stapylton; in Ezekial Chapter 38, Gog is describes as a ruler of the land known as Magog; Robinson in Clark and Harradine 1990: 44.

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**Figure 11.**
Sample entries from *Dictionary of Placenames of Victoria*

- **Dorward (2001)** *The Glens of Angus: Names, Places, People* is an interesting publication. It begins with descriptions of the landscapes of the glens, followed by a discussion of the languages of the region, a history of the glens and the written records. It then lists what are considered some interesting placenames, and provides detailed encyclopedic descriptions of each place (Figure 12a). The book’s second half consists of what it calls a ‘gazetteer’ of the Angus Glens’ placenames (Figure 12b). Some entries have an accompanying pictorial sketch of the toponym’s site. The microstructure of the ‘gazetteer’ entries is as follows:

**Toponym**

- Parish
- National ordinance survey grid reference number
- Etymology
- Pronunciation of toponym
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

Colmeallie Visitors should not be put off by the lack of signposting for this impressive monument: it is possible to park beside the entrance to the Colmeallie farm road and easy to walk the few hundred yards up the hill to the site. The stone circle is thought to be Bronze Age, and in its centre is what appears to be the site of a cist burial. A very atmospheric place, beautifully situated with views up and down the glen. Its ecclesiastical associations are confirmed by the presence nearby of a Kirkhill, a Kirk Burn and Kirkshank to the north, but the spelling Kilmeallie (‘Mallie’s cell’) is an aberration. Early forms are Culmaly (1554) and Culmalie (1632).

Figure 12a.
Encyclopaedic entry for Colmeallie

Colmeallie EZL NO 565 782

44 The Standing Stones of Colmeallie

Figure 12b.
‘Gazetteer’ entry for Colmeallie

• Ekwall (1960) The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names is a prime example of this type of publication. It has an extensive introduction (48 pages) commencing with general remarks on toponymy, followed by an outline of various types of placename. It then considers the various linguistic origins of placenames (e.g. Celtic, Scandinavian, Latin, French etc.). A discussion on the value of placename study then ensues, which is followed by an outline of the arrangement of the dictionary (i.e. its macro- and microstructures). Although the dictionary provides extended etymologies for its toponyms, it is not an historical presentation like the full Oxford English Dictionary on Historical Principles; that is, it does not give historical citations to demonstrate the history of the placename form.
This is quite reasonable because such level of detail in the microstructures of its entries would unnecessarily limit the ultimate number of entries in the dictionary (i.e. a restricted macrostructure). As well as complete toponyms, this dictionary also contains individual entries for placename elements with their etymologies (see Figure 8 above for its entry on the element *wic* > *wick* of *Randwick*). The microstructures of toponymic entries in this dictionary comprise:

**Toponym**

County

Early forms + dates

Meaning

Etymology

![Figure 13.
Ekwall’s entry for Randwick](image)

- **English Place-Name Society (in preparation) Vocabulary of English Place-Names: A dictionary of place-name elements** is an alphabetically-arranged dictionary of the words and word-elements that comprise the placenames of England. The aim of the *Vocabulary* is to replace A.H. Smith’s (1956) *English Place-Name Elements*, Vols I & II, which in turn replaced A. Mawer’s (1924) *Chief Elements used in English Place-Names*. The *Vocabulary* is not only a revision of Smith’s work, but is also a considerable enlargement of its scope to include material from ‘minor’ names, such as field-names, street-names, etc. Its intention is to record all vocabulary found in any placename recorded before c.1750.

Thus far, three volumes have been published: *Á–Box*, *Bruce–Cæster*, and *Cæfor– Cock-pit*. Volumes on *Co–D*, *M–O* and *P–R* are currently in preparation. The *Vocabulary* is available through the English Place-Name Society. Figure 14 shows a sample entry from the draft of the *M–O* volume. Entries are extremely detailed.
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

Figure 14.
Sample entry from draft volume M–O of Vocabulary of English Place-Names

- **Gifford (1923) Tongan Place Names.** Although this is an obscure publication, it is worth including in this survey because it is another example of a scholarly work of this genre. One of the principles under which this dictionary was compiled was to provide toponymic data to determine ethnographic interrelations between Polynesian island groups. There was much inter-island voyaging across Polynesia prior to the arrival of Europeans, and placename data can help show the extent of this inter-island voyaging and contact. For instance, Sāmoan placenames are found in Tonga and vice-versa. Although the author refers to the dictionary as a ‘gazetteer’, it is for all intents and purposes a dictionary. The entries have the following general microstructure:

| maire | OFr, m., ‘mayor’. The word was also used (in ME as well as OFr) more generally for one in high judicial office (OED-3 sense 3), though as DES notes with Johnsonian dryness, ‘the term was limited in England to mayors of boroughs, much less numerous than the corresponding, but less dignified, “mayors” of France and Scotland’.
|———|
| In the sense ‘chief officer of a city or borough’ the term evidently appears in two Leicester bldgs, the maeres howse 1530 Lei:1:160 (hūs) and Guildhall or Town Hall (le Mothall) 1301, the Gilde hall otherwise cald the Maires hall 1466 Lei:1:105–6 (hall, cf. mothall), and it is found later in Lincoln in Mayor’s Chair 1828 L:1:129 (chaire) with reference to one William White, Mayor (Cameron quotes from The Date Book for Lincoln: “1732 Mayor’s chair erected on the steep-hill, to prevent accidents as a place for porters to rest their loads on”). Note also Lord Mayor’s Whims YE:75 (*hvin), the Lord Mayor of London being reportedly an overseer in 1632 of the possessors here in Brandesburton of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.
| Where such context is wanting, there are a number of potential confusibles, at least in latish spellings, including mare (cf. Mayorhold Nth:7 & li), ge-māre (cf. Moor Pot We:2:28) and mere (cf. Mayorhouse Sr:221), though for the consistent retention in ME of the diphthong ai before r see Jordan §233.
| We might perhaps consider maire or the derived surname (on record from 1242, see Thureson:138–9) in some minor names for which no analysis has previously been offered, such as Mayors Close (f.n.) c.1840 O:246 (clois), Mayre Land (f.n.) 1584 Do:3:188 (land), Mayre Lane (f.n.) 1548 Brk:22 (lane) and Maiors meadow (f.n.) 1674 K [Cullen 1997:193] (med). The surname has been suggested to occur in Mea’s Farm (cf. Maiorescroft & Maioresgardyn 1436) Sx:385 (croft, gardin).
| — substantival application of Lat māior ‘greater’ (see AND maiur a. & s.; AFW major, nom.sg. maire, adj. & sb.), a development found already in post-classical Lat (OED-3).

AFW major, OFED major, AND maiur, MED mair(e, EDD mayor, OED-2-3 mayor, DES Mayor, DML major sense 10.
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

**Toponym**
- Meaning of the name
- [Name-elements and their meanings]
- **Feature**
  - Group of islands in which the feature occurs
  - The island on which the feature is located
  - The village near which it is located (where relevant)
- Miscellaneous data (such as name of the landlord, where relevant; origin of the name; historical and geographic information)

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Group of islands</th>
<th>Island</th>
<th>Village</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Figure 15.**
  - Sample entry from *Tongan Place Names*
  - Nukualofa. Land of love [nuku, land; a, of; ofa or lofa, love]. Village and district on Tongatapu island (T). Capital of Tongan kingdom. The original village of Nukualofa formerly bore successively the names Maufanga, Navua, Nukualefa, and Nukualofa. The name Nukualofa is said to have been given by Samoans who made war on Tonga. Another version is that it was so named by shipwrecked Samoans who were given food there. Nukualofa was originally just a little bit of ground opposite to Goodwin’s house. There was a boat anchorage there.

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- **Mills (2003) Oxford Dictionary of British Place Names** generally contains very short entries, since it is a concise dictionary. Like many serious placename dictionaries, it has an informative introduction that reviews what a placename is, and considers the importance toponymy and what placenames can tell us about the social and linguistic history of a nation. Quite a lengthy discussion ensues on the chronology and languages of English placenames, followed by an outline of different placename types. Placenames in Ireland, Wales and Scotland are each afforded a short exposition. The introduction concludes with a series of maps depicting the counties and unitary authorities of Britain and Ireland. An appendix contains a useful glossary of some common elements in British place-names. The general structure of its entries is as follows:

**Toponym**
- County or unitary authority
- Earlier spellings
- Meaning
- Etymology

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toponym</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Etymology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Figure 16.**
  - Mills’ entry for Randwick
  - Randwick Glos. Rendewiche 1121. Probably ‘dwelling or farm on the edge or border’. OE *rend + wic.*
Murray & Hercock (2008) *Where on the coast is that?* This publication of Western Australia’s coastal toponyms largely contains data covered in the ANPS database. It aims to ‘describe and explain the origin of place names on the coast and islands…’, and considers features within 100 metres of the coast as ‘coastal’. It does not include Indigenous toponyms, unless they ‘appear in the historical record, and are in use on modern maps.’ The structure of its entries is as follows:

**Toponym**

- Local Government Area
- AUSLIG Map reference number & name
- Latitude & longitude
- Description of location
- Origin of name
- Where possible who named the place, when and why
- When the name was approved, and any preceding names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coogee</th>
<th>City of Cockburn. Map: SH 50.14 PERTH SPECIAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latitude 32° 07’ 10” S</td>
<td>Longitude 115° 45’ 59” E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coogee Beach</td>
<td>Latitude 32° 06’ 46” S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A metropolitan suburb and beach located about 7 km south of Fremantle. Coogee Beach was probably the first landing place on the mainland by de Vlamingh’s expedition on 4 January 1697 when a party from the *Geelvinck* under the command of M. Blom, the ship’s upper steersman, stepped ashore. The name ‘Coogee’ was recorded in 1845 by Thomas Watson as *Kou-Gee*, an aboriginal word for a nearby lake, which was named ‘Lake Munster’. See Munster Water.

**Figure 17.**

Sample entry from *Where on the coast is that?*

Raper, Möller & du Plessis (2014) *Dictionary of Southern African Place Names* is a comprehensive and detailed volume that contains over 9,000 Introduced (Dutch, Afrikaans, English) and Indigenous toponyms (Zulu, San, Khoikhoi, Bantu, etc.). There is a lengthy and informative introduction outlining the background to the work; the principles of international and national standardisation of placenames; the work of the South African Geographical Names Council; linguistic details of indigenous languages and placenames, as well as introduced placenames; issues regarding the origin and meaning of toponyms; the linguistics of placenames; and a user guide. This is an extremely good example of a regional placename dictionary—a veritable treasure trove for the serious toponymist. The microstructure of its entries generally comprises the following elements:

**Toponym**

- Administrative district/province/region
- Latitude & longitude
- Feature type designation
- Description of location
- History of the named place
- Language of toponym’s origin
- Previous names and forms
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

Room (2006) *Placenames of the World*, comprises some 6,600 names of countries, cities, territories, natural features and historic sites. It contains three appendices: (1) common placename words and elements; (2) exonyms of major placenames in French, German, Italian and Spanish; and curiously (3) Chinese names of countries and capitals. The entries frequently give information that might be considered superficial and which is often incorrect. The main body of this publication is disappointing. In some cases, information regarding the naming of a place is included, but not often. What is most useful is its 15-page Preface. It outlines the basic principles of placename study, provides a ten-category placename typology, presents a discussion on naming patterns in different parts of the world, as well as an analysis of placename frequencies. Entries generally have the following form:

**Toponym**
Type of feature
Location
Origin and meaning of the name
(Other information)

Figure 18.
Entry for *Potjesrivier* in Raper, Möller & du Plessis (2014)

**Bundaberg. City and port, eastern Australia.**
The Queensland city is named for the local *Bunda* tribe of Aborigines.

Figure 19.
Sample entry from *Placenames of the World*
van Berkel & Samplonius (2006) Nederlandse plaatsnamen ['Dutch placenames'], is another typical example of a true placename dictionary. Although it is a concise volume, it offers the reader quite comprehensive etymological data, enough for most researchers.\(^{10}\) It emphasises the importance of specific toponym elements in the determination of the cultural time period when the toponym was bestowed, and the region of a particular toponym. To this end, a very helpful table summarising time periods and the concomitant linguistic forms and regions of toponym elements is included. Its microstructure generally includes the following elements:

**Toponym**
- Location—Municipality, province
- Earlier forms and their dates
- Etymology
- Linguistic and historical comments

![Sample entry from Nederlandse plaatsnamen](image)

**Figure 20.**
Sample entry from Nederlandse plaatsnamen (translation below)

### Bussum

[Municipality: Bussum, N[orth] H[olland]] 1306 *Bussum*; 1388 *Bussen*; 1470 *Bussum*; probably a plural dative form (with a locative function) of *bus* = Middle Dutch *Busch* ‘woodland/forest’ and then ‘settlement in the forest’. The absence of forms with *k/ch* is however conspicuous. The current ending with *-um* is due to the influence of places such as Hilversum, Blaricum, etc.

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Anon. (1981) *What’s in a Name. Dictionary of historical facts and Aboriginal meanings of over 1,200 place names of New South Wales* is a rather curious publication in that it includes entries for certain well-known streets and roads (e.g. George Street, Belmore Road, Hume Highway), buildings (e.g. Embassy Theatre, Century Theatre, Harbour Trust Office, Imperial Arcade), parks (e.g. Centennial Park). The entries do not have a consistent layout, some being very brief while others contain lengthy
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

encyclopædic information. Indigenous-derived toponyms are indicated by the usual ‘Aboriginal’ or ‘Native’. There are occasional entries which either fail to give an origin for the name or do so vaguely and cryptically.

Uranua A corruption of the native word ‘Wahninah’ for the sound of the birds rising. Quail once abounded there.

Uranquity ‘Much rain’ (Aboriginal).

Urunga ‘Long beach’ (Aboriginal).

Vale of Clwydd Named by Governor Macquarie because he saw a resemblance to a Welsh valley. Native name was Tuiwon.

Vaucluse W. C. Wentworth bought the Vaucluse estate in 1827 and completed Vaucluse House in 1829. Previously the estate had been the home of Sir Henry Brown Hayes, sentenced to death for the abduction of a Quaker heiress, but transported instead. On the voyage out he managed to monopolise most of the free space on the boat and practically all the comforts. He imported soil from Ireland and spread it about Vaucluse to banish snakes. The name Vaucluse is derived from a village in France where Petrarch first saw his Laura.

Vere After Sir Charles Broke Vere. (See Broke.)

Victoria Barracks Its fine stonework was quarried on the spot, the work being done by Canadian ‘exiles’, who had been transported to Australia for taking part in a rebellion in what is now Ontario Province.

Victoria, Mount Named by Major Mitchell, after Princess Victoria, later Queen Victoria.

Figure 21.
Sample entries from Anon. (1981) What’s in a Name

• Cockburn (1990 [1908]). South Australia: What’s in a Name? Nomenclature of South Australia has a mélange of microstructures accompanying its headwords. Although the work is avowedly about the names of places, the author admits that when he has not been able to obtain the origin of a toponym, he would omit this information. The entries are written in a discursive style, as declared in the Foreword by the son of the author: ‘Breezily, entertainingly and authoritatively, it discloses the origins of nearly 4,000 [names]’. Many entries do not provide a location of a toponym or what type of feature to which it refers, while other entries are very detailed, often running into several columns of copious historical information. As is common in these types of publications, Indigenous-derived toponyms are merely labelled ‘Aboriginal’.
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

Figure 22.
Two sample entries from *South Australia: What’s in a Name?*

- **Kennedy & Kennedy (2006) *Australian Place Names*** presents its entries in a narrative style which is very accessible to the lay reader. The material is, for the most part, compiled from a variety of sources and, as with other comparable publications, the entries vary considerably in quality and amount of detail. It reproduces material, for instance, from unreliable sources such as Reed (1974) and Cockburn (1990 [1908]).

---

**Figure 23.**
Sample entry from *Australian Placenames*

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**Punthari**—in the Hundred of Finniss, is Aboriginal for 'scrub', a name chosen by the Nomenclature Committee in 1916, in place of the German Hildesheim. The Kaiser is a Prince of Hildesheim and there is a Cathedral town of that name in Prussia.

Originally, Punthari was Finniss Vale (Honourable B. T. Finniss) and some months after the post office was opened the Postmaster-General suggested an alteration to Nuske, of which the settlers did not approve. The schoolteacher, a French lady, expressed preference for Hildesheim, which was adopted by the Postmaster-General.

**Purdie’s Ponds**—on the overland telegraph line, were discovered and named by McDouall Stuart on 11 June 1862, in honour of Dr Purdie of Edinburgh.

---

**Bundaberg** Q was chosen as a town-site by District Surveyor Thompson in 1869. Thompson also chose the name Bundaberg. Some sources say that bunda came from the local Aborigines who had adopted Thompson’s assistant Edwards into their tribe. Others say it was the name of the tribe or the name of an Aboriginal elder. Berg could have come from a corruption of an English word for town—borough—burgh (as in Edinburgh) and finally berg. This would make it Bunda’s town. However, berg is a German word for mountain, which would make it Bunda’s mountain. This seems unlikely as mountains are not in plentiful supply in the flat area around Bundy. The nearest large rise is the hill now known as The Hummock. Thompson also chose the name Bourbon for the street that became the town’s main thoroughfare. Its origin is uncertain. It may come from an Aboriginal word *boorbung*, meaning ‘chain of waterholes’, or Bourbon, a variety of sugarcane. Bundaberg became a town in 1867 and a city in 1913.
• **Martin (1943)** *One Thousand and More Place Names in New South Wales* is yet another example of a publication whose entries vary greatly in terms of information provided and style of presentation. Articles are discursive in style, but are also often extremely brief and lacking in substance. The etymologies provided are often either incorrect or merely speculative. Indigenous-derived toponyms are just indicated as ‘Aboriginal’. A publication to be wary of.

![Sample entries from Martin (1943) *One Thousand and More Place Names in New South Wales*](image)

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• **Powell (1994)** *Placenames of the Greater Hawkesbury Region* is a small publication concentrating on a restricted region. Indigenous names are indicated by ‘Aboriginal’, and there is often reliance on undependable sources such as Reed (1967, 1973) and McCarthy (1972 [1950]) for meanings. Once again, articles vary greatly in the amount of information they provide, sometimes very scant, other times quite detailed. Articles are in a narrative form, usually beginning with the location of the toponym followed by its purported origin and meaning. Sometimes other historical information is provided. Numbers between parentheses in the entries refer to references which are listed by number at the back of the book.

![Sample entries from *Placenames of the Greater Hawkesbury Region*](image)
Pratt (1978) *Place Names of the Central Coast* is a booklet of 55 pages listing the most important locations on the Central Coast of NSW and is a very readable little volume, with entries written in a narrative style. Considerable historic information is provided for each location. There is no discernible microstructure for its entries.

---

**STAPLES LOOKOUT**

Woy Woy Rotary Club’s 1954-55 “Golden Anniversary” project was the construction of Staples’ Lookout on the Kariong-Woy Woy Road, named in honour of C. J Staples a long time resident of Woy Woy. From about 1910 when subdivision of the peninsula was taking place, C. J. Staples subdivided many estates in Woy Woy, Ocean Beach and Pearl Beach. One advertisement offered land at 5/- deposit, with repayments as low as twopence per week. A further incentive was a refund of half the purchase price of the allotment if a building to the value of £80 was erected on one of the 178 lots in the business section.

Mr Staples was a member of Erina Shire Council. In 1923 he and the Shire Engineer, in a car driven by Mr V. J. McKenzie, made their way along a track over the mountain from Gosford to Woy Woy.

The bridle track over the hills from Gosford wound up and down steep gullies, through thickly timbered wilderness. They cleared the way as they went along. The car was over the Woy Woy tunnel in three hours, but it was another two hours before they found a way down.

First change in Erina Shire occurred in 1927 when “D” Riding was separated to become Woy Woy Shire. Mr C. J. Staples was elected first president of the new council, constituted in August 1928.

He spent more than 20 years in Local Government and served as president in both Erina and Woy Woy Shire Councils.

**ST HUBERTS ISLAND**

In January, 1843, Father Cornelius Coughlan of the Roman Catholic Church came to take up duties in the Kinumber district.

Father Coughlan was given the grant of 154 acres, an island at the entrance to Cockle Creek which he named St Huberts Island.

It was part marsh land and part timber and mangroves, with extensive bird life. He cleared part of it and put in a small banana plantation.

He used his row boat to get to his various congregations around the Broadwater (Kinumber).

Father Coughlan died on 2nd June, 1872. The island was sold and subdivided over the years until Hooker Rex Pty Ltd eventually acquired it. Despite opposition from the local council and residents the firm developed the present canal system subdivision.

There was no definite channel between St Huberts Island and Riley Islands, only mud flats. The first channel was dug by Robert Henderson who was paid the princely sum of £4.

---

Figure 26.

Sample entries from *Place Names of the Central Coast*
• Reed (1974) *Place Names of Australia* is one of the most well-known publications on Australian placenames. It is unfortunately not a very reliable source. As can be seen in Figure 27, the entries very considerably in the amount of information provided.

**Toponym**
- State
- Purported etymology and meaning
- Occasionally includes information who bestowed the name

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toponym</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Purported etymology and meaning</th>
<th>Occasionally includes information who bestowed the name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bunda Plateau</strong> SA</td>
<td>The Aboriginal name of the cliffs about the head of the Great Australian Bight was Bunda, and from this the plateau on the borders of the Nullarbor Plain takes its name.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bundaberg</strong> Q</td>
<td>One of the first surveyors in the district was admired by the local Aborigines. They ‘adopted’ him (so goes the tale) and gave him their own tribal name, Bunda. From this the township took its name with the addition of ‘berg’.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bundaleer</strong> SA</td>
<td>Aboriginal. Among the hills. The local name was adopted in 1841 by John Bristow Hughes when he took up land here. It was some of the best land north of Adelaide, and the run gradually covered an area of about 800 sq kms, and included the site of present-day Jamestown.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bundalong</strong> V</td>
<td>Aboriginal. Married, or joined together.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bundanoon</strong> NSW</td>
<td>Aboriginal. Big or deep gullies.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bundarra</strong> NSW</td>
<td>Aboriginal. Big kangaroo.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bungaree</strong> V</td>
<td>The name of one of the Aborigines who signed the document conveying land at Melbourne to John Batman.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 27.**
Sample entries from *Place Names of Australia*

• Reed (1969) *Place-Names of New South Wales: Their Origins and Meanings* has much the same design and style as Reed’s (1974) *Place Names of Australia*.

**CANOWINDRA.** Aboriginal. Home, or, camping-place.
**CANTERBURY.** After the cathedral city in Kent, “the burgh of the Kentish people”. The area was first named Canterbury Vale by the Rev Richard Johnson (1753-1827), the first clergyman in NSW and an early farmer. The Rev Samuel Marsden was sent out as an assistant to Johnson.

**Figure 28.**
Sample entries from *Place-Names of New South Wales*
Richmond-Tweed Regional Library & Richmond River Historical Society (1983) *Place Names of the Richmond Region*, is quite an honest little publication. For some reason there is an appendix that lists the names of grasses in the region, but of more relevance a useful list of superseded names with their current appellations is included. There is also a list of placenames for which more information is sought by the authors. Curiously, many entries do not indicate what type of feature to which the name refers, only a map reference number referring to Central Mapping Authority 1:25000 maps. As can be seen in Figure 29, the entry for *Talofa* merely states its meaning: no information about its feature type is given. Sometimes ‘Bundjalung’ is indicated as the source language for a toponym (it being the main Indigenous language of the region), but more often simply the label ‘Aboriginal’ is applied. However, honest attempts have been made to determine the Indigenous meaning of names, and sometimes as many as five meanings being listed. In an attempt to record the correct meaning of an Indigenous-derived toponym, enquiries were often made with local Aboriginal people. Where possible, root meanings of the name’s elements are included. All this is to be commended; however, all too often an entry is of little or no use, e.g. ‘Green Forest A descriptive name.’ or ‘Kangaroo Hill A descriptive name.’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toponym</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Map reference</th>
<th>Origin / meaning</th>
<th>Historical information (in some cases)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Figure 29.** Sample entries from *Place Names of the Richmond Region*

Rooks (1998) *The Place Names of Tumbarumba & District*, is another localised dictionary of places covering street names, tracks, locations, and natural geographic features. As seems to be standard practice for this type of publication, articles are in a narrative form with no consistent organisation. Where possible, the origin and meaning of a name is provided, on occasion its pronunciation, and
often historical notes are supplied. Unfortunately, sometimes the feature to which a name refers is not provided, e.g. *Happy Jacks* (Figure 30).

---

**GREY MARE.** Gold was discovered by accident by a few disgruntled miners riding from the Toolong diggings. Those who mined there were Atchison, the Bogong Reef Company, Johnson and Rowe, George and Charlie Bell, and Kerry Pierce.

The area was named in the early 1930s after the last Waler brumby was captured, an old grey mare.

Mining ended in 1935. There were attempts to revive the mine in 1949, but by 1952 it was again abandoned.

**HANNEL’S SPUR TRACK.** The track was first cleared in the 1930s by two stockmen Hannel and Kerry Pierce. The track descends 1700 metres from south of Meuller’s Peak to the Geehi Flats. The track was hardly ever used for moving stock to summer pastures as the cattle baulked at the steep grade out of Geehi.

**HAPPY JACKS.** Named after a miner who found payable gold there.

**HARROW STREET.** Formed and named in 1957. Off Mate Street from the then residence of Mr Peel to the residence of Mr Sly. The name was suggested by Mr N. Sly.

The origin of this name is not known, but there are limited alternatives. Some say a set of harrows lay in the paddock near the street; others suggest that it was reached after a long, harrowing climb up Mate Street!

---

**Figure 30.**

Sample entries from *The Place Names of Tumbarumba & District*

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- **Wajnryb (2006) *Australian Place Name Stories***, has an interesting macrostructure. The book’s entries are listed alphabetically throughout (Figure 31a); however, 31 tables called ‘feature boxes’ are interspersed which contain toponyms on specific themes, e.g. Cornish names, ship names, war names etc. (Figure 31b). Its introduction declares that the book takes a fresh approach to placenames using history and narrative as the ‘guiding tools.’ This is a rather odd claim, because all of the dictionaries of places cited above have adopted this approach. The introduction also contains a broad typology of placenames, roughly based on the ANPS typology. However, there is a useful discussion on current and past place-naming, and indigenous history and placenames, highlighting the difficulties in recording these placenames and their meanings. It is for this reason that Wajnryb focusses more on Introduced toponyms than Indigenous-derived ones. Even though she also acknowledges the apocryphal nature of many toponyms’ origins, she does not shy away from including such purported etymologies. Wajnryb has unabashedly targeted this book at a general lay readership: the aim is to entertain rather than to be a serious didactic work.
Figure 31a.
Sample entries from *Australian Place Name Stories*

**Figure 31b.**
Sample page showing a ‘feature box’ of themed toponyms in *Australian Place Name Stories*
2.4 Dictionaries of places

2.4.1 Gazetteers

Although gazetteers can be seen as a formal and technical subset of the category ‘dictionaries of places’, the data they contain commonly forms the basis for entries in both placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places. The form most commonly encountered in online searches for placenames of Australian states and territories may be labelled as a ‘short-form gazetteer’. These are often used in conjunction with computer mapping and GIS systems, and mainly contain a list of toponyms together with data on their locations or other spatial referencing systems. They may contain other data as well, such as feature type and name variants. Very short-form gazetteers appear as placename indexes at the rear of many published atlases.

- **Gazetteer of Australia** ([www.ga.gov.au/placename](http://www.ga.gov.au/placename)) (Geoscience Australia), is described by the Australian Permanent Committee on Place Names (PCPN) as ‘a database of Australia’s placenames’ derived from the:
  - Official Register of Geographic Names / Gazetteers which are maintained by each Australian State and Territory.
  - Official offshore undersea feature gazetteer maintained by the Australian Hydrographic Service (Department of Defence).
  - Official Antarctic place names gazetteer maintained by the Australian Antarctic Division.
  - Unofficial place names (e.g. homesteads) supplied by Geoscience Australia and other organisations involved with topographic mapping.

Geoscience Australia is responsible for the compilation of the online Gazetteer of Australia, which provides data on the location and spelling of more than 370,000 geographical names. The data fields for each toponym entry are listed in Table 2 and displayed in a sample search in Figure 32, below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RECORD ID</td>
<td>The identifier for each record. The preceding characters indicate the originating authority of the record (e.g. the ‘SA’ in ‘SA0024754’ stands for South Australia).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>The place name supplied by the custodial authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VARIANT NAME</td>
<td>The alternative or previous name for the geographical feature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>The State or Territory that the feature is located in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEATURE CODE</td>
<td>The type of geographical feature that the name represents, for example the name of a mountain, dock or forest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLASSIFICATION</td>
<td>The broad categorisation of the place, based on its feature code. This was used to filter searches in the previous Geoscience Australia Place Name Search Application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGDN</td>
<td>Identifies place names that can be used in the act.au, nsw.au, nt.au, qld.au, sa.au, tas.au, vic.au and wa.au second level domains and is restricted for usage by community website portals that reflect community interests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONCISE GAZETTEER</td>
<td>A flag to indicate if the place name is contained in the Concise Gazetteer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100K MAP</td>
<td>The number of the 1:100 000 Map Sheet that contains the feature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUTHORITY</td>
<td>The authority that provided, and is custodian of the place name records.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATUS DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>The status of the place name as approved by the custodial authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LONGITUDE</td>
<td>The longitude of the position of the feature given in decimal degrees using the Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA94).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LATITUDE</td>
<td>The latitude of the position of the feature given in decimal degrees using the Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA94).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2.
Toponym data fields, Gazetteer of Australia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postcode</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Feature code</th>
<th>Concise gaz</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Record_ID</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Variant Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BUNDABERG</td>
<td>URBN</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>-24.87</td>
<td>152.35</td>
<td>QLD5190</td>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>O</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 32.
Search result for Bundaberg, Gazetteer of Australia
• **Composite Gazetteer of Australia and its Territories** is an in-progress development of the online *Gazetteer of Australia*. It is designed to be a frequently updated dynamic gazetteer, unlike the nominal 2-year update cycle of its predecessor. It will provide the following data fields for toponyms:

  - RECORD ID: Unique identifier for the dataset
  - NAME: Name of the placename feature
  - FEATURE: Feature type classification to which the entry relates
  - CATEGORY: Category classification of the placename feature
  - GROUP: Group classification of the placename feature
  - LATITUDE LONGITUDE: Latitude & longitude of the placename feature
  - SUPPLY DATE: Date the stakeholder supplied the data to GA

Figure 33 shows a projected screenshot of the search result for the toponym *Bundaberg*.

![Figure 33](image)

**Figure 33.**
Search result for *Bundaberg*, Composite Gazetteer of Australia and its Territories

• **State Gazetteers**
Most of the states of Australia have their own online gazetteers in various formats. Figure 34 shows the result of a search on the online Queensland Gazetteer for the same toponym. Notice that this entry also includes information on the cultural properties of the toponym (in this case, the origin of the name).
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

Figure 34.
Search result for Bundaberg, Queensland Gazetteer (Department of Natural Resources, Mines & Energy: www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/qld/environment/land/place-names/search)

The NSW Geographical Names Board provides a similar online gazetteer. A typical search result is shown in Figure 35.
Coogee

A suburb about 3 km N by E of Maroubra and about 3 km S of Waverley. Boundaries within the Randwick Council area shown on map GNB3642.

Meaning:
Koojah: bad smell caused by the decay of large quantities of seaweed washed ashore. (Anthropological Society of Australasia 1899) Also: 'bad generally; stinking; a bad smell caused by decayed seaweed washed ashore'. (McCarthy; 1963).

Origin:
Aboriginal word meaning 'place of stinking sea-weed'. P. 13-14. Information from Randwick 1859-1959 Lynch & Larcombe) Native name Kooja (Science of Man)

Figure 35.
Search result for Coogee, NSW Gazetteer (Geographical Names Board: www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/place_naming/placename_search)

The various state gazetteers sometimes include notes on the purported origins of toponyms. These are often derived from secondary sources such as Appleton & Appleton (1992), Kennedy & Kennedy (2006), McCarthy (1950), and Reed (1969, 1973); not all the information in such sources can be held to be reliable.

International Gazetteers
Two very useful international online gazetteers are the Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names Online (www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/ign/) (Getty Research Institute 2017) and GeoNames (www.geonames.org), a geographical database that contains over 25 million geographical names and consists of over 11 million unique features whereof 4.8 million are populated places and 13 million alternate
names. *GeoNames* is a project of Unxos GmbH, Switzerland. Both these gazetteers contain limited data such as location, feature type, and latitude/longitude.

All features in the *GeoNames* database are categorised into one of nine feature classes and further subcategorised into one of 645 feature codes. *GeoNames* integrates geographical data, such as names of places in various languages, elevation, population and others from various sources. All latitude and longitude coordinates are in WGS84 (World Geodetic System 1984). Like Wikipedia, entries in the database may be edited, corrected, or new names may be added by users.

The initial search screen in *GeoNames* allows the user to search for a toponym, either in a specific country or all countries. The resulting screen shows all placenames with that name form in the database, the country, its feature class, and coordinates (Figure 36a). This screen then allows the user to click on any toponym or country link for further details on that specific name (Figure 36b).

![Figure 36a.](image)

*GeoNames search for Waitui*
By clicking the inverted-drop-shaped icons (aka ‘Google Maps pin’) at the far right of the toolbar, a Google map image will appear showing the location of the feature.

Unlike the GeoNames database, the Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names Online only shows three features with the name-form *Waitui*, all in New Zealand (Figure 37a).

**Figure 36b.**
Window showing specific GeoNames data for *Waitui* in NSW
Figure 37a.

*Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names Online* search results for *Waitui*

By clicking on individual toponym highlighted links, the database will provide further data on each toponym, such as coordinates, alternative names, its hierarchical position, feature type and sources of data, and contributors (Figure 37b).
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

Figure 37b. Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names Online specific information on Waitui (hill).

- Gazetteer of British Place Names is a useful gazetteer which contains some 50,000 settlement placenames (www.gazetteer.org.uk/features.php). Each placename is related to its historic county as well as to a set of administrative areas. Unfortunately, the gazetteer does not contain the names of natural geographic features, thereby markedly reducing its overall utility. The gazetteer provides the following data:

  **Toponym**
  
  National Grid Reference
  Latitude & Longitude
  Historic County
  Administrative County
  District
  Police Area
  Country
  Map
Figure 38 shows a typical search result from this gazetteer.

![Gazetteer of British Place Names](image)

**Figure 38.**
Search result for *Randwick*, Gazetteer of British Place Names

Data contained in gazetteers commonly forms the basis for entries in placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places.

### 2.4.2 Printed dictionaries of places

- **Appleton & Appleton (1992) *The Cambridge Dictionary of Australian Places*** is perhaps one of the best-known such publications on Australian places. It boasts that it lists ‘virtually every population centre in the country’ with more than 4,700 entries. Important natural features, national parks, dams and regions are also included, as well as LGAs. Some entries are also cross-referenced. One refreshing addition is that for most areas, information is provided of which Aboriginal group occupied it at the time of European occupation. Another positive is that where possible an attempt has been made to identify the main language of origin of Indigenous-derived toponyms. Generally speaking, this is a useful publication even though the information provided is not always correct or attested. Entries generally have the following microstructure (although there is considerable variation, with some entries being much more detailed than others):
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

Toponym
State
Pronunciation
Map reference
Feature identification (+ population where relevant)
General location
LGA
Origin of the name
General description
Historical and economic information

**BUNDABERG**, Qld (*bun-dá-berg*), 24 52S 152 21E (map 5), a city (pop. 31 421) and statistical area (pop. 33 368) on the BURNETT RIVER. Localities within Bundaberg include Avenell Heights, East Bundaberg, Kepnock, Millbank, North Bundaberg, Norville, South Bundaberg, South East Bundaberg, Svenssons Heights, Thomsen Heights, Walkerville and West Bundaberg. Bundaberg’s Hinkler Airport was named to commemorate pioneer aviator Bert Hinkler (1892–1933), who was born in Bundaberg. The city’s name comes from combining an Aboriginal name, *Bunda*, bestowed on an assistant surveyor by the local Aborigines, with a corruption of ‘burgh’, meaning town or borough. The name was given by Surveyor J. C. Thompson.

**General description.** Bundaberg’s climate is temperate, with average temperatures ranging from 10.1–21.6°C in winter (Jul.) to 21.4–29.8°C in summer (Jan.) and an average annual rainfall of 1159 mm. In the district around the city sugar is intensively cultivated, and all stages of the processing of the crop are carried out in Bundaberg, which is noted for its rum. A bulk sugar terminal for sea-going ships was opened there in 1958. Also produced are macadamia nuts, peanuts, fruit and vegetables. Seafoods are processed in Bundaberg, which is a tourist departure point for the southern sections of the GREAT BARRIER REEF. There is a study centre of the University College of Central Queensland in the city.

**History.** The Bundaberg region was Daribalang Aboriginal land until British settlement. In 1866 Gavin and John Steuart took up land in the area, and a town was laid out in 1868. Large numbers of Pacific Islanders (known as ‘Kanakas’) were brought in, often forcibly, to work sugar plantations, the first mill opening in 1872 and a major refinery in 1882. Bundaberg became a municipality in 1881 and a city in 1913.

**Figure 39.**
Sample entry from *The Cambridge Dictionary of Australian Places*
Dennison (1994) *Where in Tasmania? A compilation of place names and their histories in Tasmania* is a self-published work available through the University of Tasmania’s Open Access Repository. As the title indicates, the emphasis is on the history of the places itemised. Like many other publications of this type, it is poorly edited with many mistakes in spelling and grammar and with factual errors. Entries vary greatly in quality and quantity, with some being all but pointless (Figure 40a). Moreover, entries do not have any regular or discernible microstructure: many have only a description of the approximate location, while others add to that some historical or local information. Occasionally an origin of the name is provided. It would have been helpful, for instance, to have noted that *Akaroa* (in Figure 40b) is a copied toponym from New Zealand.

**ALTMORE:** This was changed to Ranga.

*Figure 40a.*
A pointless entry in *Where in Tasmania?* with no indication of location or feature type.

**AKAROA:** A small place on the St. Helens Point. It is about 8 Km. from the Tasman Highway on the St. Helens Point Road, and fronts onto Georges Bay at it’s narrow point. A quarry close to Akaroa provides some very good monumental quality granite. It has been used on tombstones as well as Reserve Bank Building in Hobart.

**ALANVALE:** A northern suburb of Launceston it is on the western side of the East Tamar Highway and 5 Km. from the centre of Launceston. The Launceston College of TAFE is situated in Alanvale-just off the Alanvale Road.

**ALBATROSS ISLAND:** A small island in the Hunter Group. Situated off the northwest tip of Tasmania, it is northwest of Hunter Island. Bass and Flinders named the island when they circumnavigated Tasmania. They described it as "an enormous granite rock, which is arid and dissected", but no reason for the name.

*Figure 40b.*
Typical entries in *Where in Tasmania?*

Manning (1990) *Manning’s Place Names of South Australia* is a clear example of a dictionary of places. It contains maps of the state’s counties and hundreds as well as a catalogue of the names of the streets of Adelaide and North Adelaide. Like Cockburn (1990 [1908]), the entries have no rigid microstructure, and are in a narrative form. They either start with a description of the location of the feature, or how/who named it. Sometimes an attempt is made to provide an etymology for the name. Unfortunately, once again toponyms derived from Indigenous languages are merely indicated as ‘Aboriginal’.
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

Figure 41.
Sample entry from Manning’s Place Names of South Australia

2.5 Online resources

As mentioned above, there are few online dictionaries of placenames; those available are essentially online versions of print dictionaries. What we have classified as ‘dictionaries of places’ are more frequently to be seen online; and like their print counterparts, these websites are usually aimed at a general lay readership.

- Victorian Places (www.victorianplaces.com.au) is produced by Monash University (in association with the University of Queensland) which provides the history of all the places in Victoria that have (or had) a population over 200. The design matches that of Queensland Places (see below). The website has ‘Browse A-Z’ and ‘Map’ functions. The latter depicts a map of Victoria with clickable Google Maps pins that mark locations in the database. The ‘Browse A-Z’ function lists 1600 toponyms as clickable links. The toponymic entries include photographs (both historic and contemporary), a brief history of the location and its naming, the meaning or origin of the name, a map showing its location, census data, and a reference list for further reading. Most entries are quite extensive; however, the database has a significant limitation in that it excludes geographic features.
Entry for *Lilliput*

- **Queensland Places** (www.queenslandplaces.com.au) includes over 1100 entries on Queensland cities, towns, villages and suburbs, that have or at one stage had populations of at least 500. The layout and content of entries mirrors that of *Victorian Places*.

- **Australia for Everyone** (www.australiaforeveryone.com.au) is a travel and information guide for Australia that features individual websites for all states/territories and cities. Each capital city has its own website that features information on its history, attractions, and for some, placenames. The latter include street names, suburb names (alphabetically listed), and geographical features (e.g. rivers and creeks, and coastal features). See: **The Names of Sydney** (www.visitsydneyaustralia.com.au/names.html) and **A to Z of Melbourne Names** (pocketozmelbourne.com.au/melbourne-names.html). These websites are in effect
‘dictionaries of places’, that provide a history of the named place, general information about the place, and, when known, information on the naming of the place.

- Dictionary of Sydney (dictionaryofsydney.org/browse/place) is a website about the history of Sydney which aims to ‘gather as much information as possible about all aspects of Sydney’s history including its natural features, built forms, structures, significant events, artefacts, organisations, places and people.’ It provides the following information:

  **Toponym**
  - Map
  - LGA information
  - Feature type
  - History (some places have extensive historical notes and references, whilst others have just a sentence or two)
  - Origin of name, if known
  - Photos (sometimes)

  This is truly a ‘dictionary of places’.

![Figure 43. Screen shot of entry for North Epping](image-url)
- **Key to English Place-names** (kepn.nottingham.ac.uk) is a guide to the interpretation of the names of England’s cities, towns and villages. Specific placenames can be looked up, or the placenames of a particular county can be browsed through. It provides a toponym’s meaning, a break-down of its component parts, the language(s) of those components, and references. The data supplied adheres to what one would find in a concise placename dictionary. The database draws on the work of the English Place Name Society and Institute for Name-Studies (University of Nottingham). The KEPN is also available as a free mobile app.

![Screen shot of entry for Randwick](image)

**Figure 44.**
Screen shot of entry for *Randwick*

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2.6 Miscellaneous related publications

The following publications do not fit neatly into any of the foregoing categories. They have been included in this survey for the sake of completeness because they do concentrate on toponyms. The first two are simply glossaries of indigenous names and words. The third is not a serious publication at all because its intent is to amuse and entertain, and is therefore of little value. A glance at the sample entry in Figure 47 is sufficient to show that no further comment is warranted. None of these three publications should be considered reliable sources of information.
The fourth publication in this group is a specialist dictionary of pronunciations, prepared by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, but now unfortunately out of print and unrevised.

- **Endacott (1963) *Australian Aboriginal Words and Place Names and their Meanings*** is exactly what it says it is. Unfortunately, no indication is given as to whether a headword is a toponym or simply a word. Nor is any indication given as to where a toponym can be found or whence a word derives. All in all, not a very useful publication. The note on its cover: ‘A choice of 3,000 pleasant sounding words from which to choose an appropriate Australian name’ ultimately reveals the publication’s true purpose—a source for house or property names. This intent is a vestige of the practice in the latter part of the nineteenth century, of giving names based on ‘euphonious Aboriginal words’ to places such as rural or outback post offices, railway stations and sidings, with little or no knowledge of local conditions or languages. No regard for their meaning or their language of origin was afforded them (Hodges 2007). A similar practice was used in New Zealand, as noted by Beattie (1915: 5) who laments that the New Zealand Post Office and Railways were ‘clapping on manufactured Māori names to places where we have no record of Māoris having ever lived.’
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placename</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KUMBOORA—Black Duck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUMBOORAN—East</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUMIRI—Smoke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUNALA—Euro, or hill Kangaroo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUNAMA—Snow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUNARA—One</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUNARI—Flat country</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUNAURRA—Plant seed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUNGARI—Black Swan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUNGL—Arms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUNIEKOONDIE—Cray-fish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUNNIE—Jew lizard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUNUMBIRRA—Pelican</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUPALI—Younger brother</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUPARA—Sheoak scrub</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUPARU—The young one</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURABANA—Quondong tree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURALO—Day-time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURANGO—Sun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURANNA—Thunder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURANYA—Rainbow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURARA—Rain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUREEL—Cold</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURKULLI—Bandicoot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURIARA—Husband and wife</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURINTI—Distance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURLEAH—Eucalyptus microtheca</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURNINGA—Walk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURRABI—Creek in gully</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURRAMULLA—Small pink sea-shell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURRA—High camp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURRA—Rain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURRAREE—High</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURRAWA—Sea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KURRUNGI—Black Duck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUTTERBUL—Wonderful</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUTUP—Small Hawk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KWINANA—A maiden (W.A.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KWINANAL—She (W.A.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KYAMBA—Forehead band</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KYARRA—Hair, fur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KYELEE—A Warburton Range tribe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KYEEMA—Dawn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KYEWONG—My home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KYIRR—The Milky Way</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KYOJA—Plain within a forest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KYOGLE—Wild turkey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAINGI—Camp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAITOKI—Bark</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKALA—Swampy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LALINA—Yonder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LALIRRA—Sun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 45.
Sample page from *Australian Aboriginal Words and Place Names and their Meanings*

- **McCarthy (1950)** *New South Wales Aboriginal Place Names and Euphonious Words, with their Meanings* has a similar purpose to that of Endacott’s glossary, judging by its use of the term ‘euphonious’ in its title. The final comment of the introduction confirms this: ‘The demand for this pamphlet demonstrates the suitability and popularity of aboriginal words for use as names.
They are Australian and should form an element in our national culture. Their use will contribute to a better understanding of the people.’ (p.3). Unfortunately, lack of information on the language’s origin and location militates against that worthy objective. Toponyms and ‘Euphonious words’ are listed separately; the latter are mostly cross-referenced to a list of numbers and map locations inside the front cover indicating the ‘tribal’ name whence the word derives. This is at least a step better than simply labelling all words as ‘Aboriginal’. What constitutes a ‘euphonious word’ is a matter of conjecture. The booklet also includes a list of Indigenous names of Port Jackson.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Name</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iluka</td>
<td>Near the sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ingar</td>
<td>Crayfish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inglebar</td>
<td>Crayfish holes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inligar</td>
<td>Place of the sick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamberoo</td>
<td>Track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jannah</td>
<td>Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerilderie</td>
<td>Redy place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerra Jerra</td>
<td>Plover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerrara</td>
<td>Haunt of egels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerrawa</td>
<td>Goanna lizard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jigi</td>
<td>Reeds which grow near swamps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jilliby</td>
<td>Where two creeks meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jindabyne</td>
<td>Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jindalee</td>
<td>Bare hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joalah</td>
<td>Haunt of the lyre bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junee</td>
<td>Speak to me; green frog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kadjungle</td>
<td>Lizard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kahba</td>
<td>Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kallineua</td>
<td>Bent tallow tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamarah</td>
<td>Sleep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamekura</td>
<td>Wait until I return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanangra</td>
<td>Beautiful view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kangaloola</td>
<td>Kangaroo hunting ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kangaroo</td>
<td>From the Koko-Yimdid language, north-east Queensland, and first used by Captain Cook in describing this animal at the Endeavour River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanimbila</td>
<td>Big fight; fighting ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karala</td>
<td>Dumaresq River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karuah</td>
<td>Native plum tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katoomba</td>
<td>Falling water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kadumba</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keirra</td>
<td>Big lagoon; high mountain; wild turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keera</td>
<td>Abundant game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kembla</td>
<td>Wild horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiah</td>
<td>Beautiful place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiama</td>
<td>Plenty food (51); good fishing ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiandra</td>
<td>Sharp stones used for knives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killara</td>
<td>Always there</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killawarra</td>
<td>Scrub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimbricki</td>
<td>Water reed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kincumber</td>
<td>Belonging to an old man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiparrar</td>
<td>Initiation ground, and final stage of ceremonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kogarah</td>
<td>Place of rushes; native name of Rushcutter’s Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolodong</td>
<td>Dove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koloona</td>
<td>Young man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koorewatha</td>
<td>Pine trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kootingal</td>
<td>Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kotara</td>
<td>Club (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunama</td>
<td>Snow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kundarung</td>
<td>Wild apples</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 46.
Robson (2007). *Yorkey’s Knob: Weird and wonderful Australian place names.*

*Figure 47.*

A typical entry in *Yorkey’s Knob*

- *ABC Standing Committee on Spoken English* (1957) *A Guide to the Pronunciation of Australian Place Names* is not a dictionary of placenames, and therefore does not provide origins, meanings, or precise locations. Its purpose is to simply provide the pronunciation of placenames. Entries are arranged in three columns: column 1, the alphabetically arranged list of placenames + state in which they are located; column 2, the transcription of the placenames in the IPA; column 3, the transcription of the placename in a modified standard spelling with syllable boundaries indicated. Inexplicably, no toponyms from the NT are included. The transcriptions of the toponyms are reliable, given they were compiled by linguists. This is a useful publication for the toponymist because it is not uncommon for Australian placenames to have varying pronunciations, or indeed surprising ones, e.g. *Wauchope* (NSW) [ˈwɔːkʌp] vs *Wauchope* (NT) [ˈwɔːkʌp]; *Goonoo Goonoo* (NSW) [ˈɡuːnɔ ˈɡuːnɔ]; and *Wangaratta* (VIC) [ˈwæŋɡərətə] vs *Talangatta* (VIC) [ˈtəlæŋɡətə].
### Pronunciation of Australian Place Names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place Name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOVEAUX (N)</td>
<td>fe'vou</td>
<td>fô-vo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRANCES (S)</td>
<td>'frânsis</td>
<td>frahn-sis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRANKLYN (S)</td>
<td>'frænklín</td>
<td>frank-lín</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRANKTON (S)</td>
<td>'frænktôn</td>
<td>frank-ton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREEBURGH (V)</td>
<td>'friibôrg</td>
<td>free-berg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREELING (S)</td>
<td>'frîlîng</td>
<td>free-ling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREMANTLE (W)</td>
<td>fri'mæntol</td>
<td>fri-man-tl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREYCINET (T)</td>
<td>'frii'sînei</td>
<td>fray-si-nay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIZELL'S (N)</td>
<td>fri'zelz</td>
<td>friz-elz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FULHAM VALE (Q)</td>
<td>'fulâm</td>
<td>full-am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUMINA (V)</td>
<td>fju'mainâ</td>
<td>few-my-nâ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FURNER (S)</td>
<td>færnâ</td>
<td>fern-â</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| FURRACABAD (N)   | fûrrâ-kâ-bad  | "u" as in "up'"
| GABBIN (W)       | 'gæbôn        | gab-bin       |
| GABO (V)         | 'geibou       | gay-bo        |
| GADARA (N)       | go'deârê       | gá-dare-â      |
| GAETA VIEW (Q)   | 'geiâtô        | gay-ê-tà       |
| GALAH (V)        | go'lô:        | gá-lah        |
| GALAH [WELL] (N) | go'lô:        | gá-lah        |
| GALATHERA (N)    | go'lêðôrâ      | gá-lather-â    |
| GALBA (N)        | 'gælbô        | gal-bâ         |
| GALGA (S)        | 'gælgô        | gal-gâ         |
| GALONG (N)       | 'geilôg       | gay-long       |
| GLORE [PARK] (N) | go'lo:        | gá-lore        |
| GALSTON (N)      | go'lêstôn      | gaul-stôn      |
| GAMALALLY (N)    | gæmô' heli:   | gam-al-alley   |
| GANGARA (N)      | 'gængôra       | gang-gà-rà     |
| GANMAIN (N)      | gæn'meîn      | gan-main       |
| GARAH (N)        | go'ra:        | gá-rah         |
| GARANGULA (N)    | go'rangju:ûlê   | gá-rang-gew-lâ |
| GAREMA (N)       | go'rimâ        | gá-ree mâ       |
| GARGETT (Q)      | 'gagôt        | gah-gét        |

**Figure 48.**

Sample page from *A Guide to the Pronunciation of Australian Place Names*
3 DICTIONARY FUNCTIONS

Dictionaries have two broad functions: communicative and cognitive (Bergenholtz & Nielsen 2006; Bergenholtz & Tarp 2010; Nielsen 2008; Tarp 2008). Those designed for communicative purposes or situations are usually used for language encoding or decoding, or solving some linguistic problem (bilingual dictionaries and learners dictionaries are prime examples of this genre). Some communicative situations include: the production/reception of text in the mother tongue, or in a foreign language; or the translation of text from one language into another. Dictionaries compiled for cognitive purposes or situations are chiefly used for acquiring specialist intelligence about a specific topic (technical dictionaries and the *Oxford English Dictionary on Historical Principles* are key examples of this genre). Strict placename dictionaries therefore have a cognitive function (unless it is a dictionary of endonyms and parallel exonyms). These are knowledge-oriented, and should, therefore, also be considered as specialist or technical dictionaries because, like these, placename dictionaries have:

- a special purpose
- only nouns as headwords (in this case proper nouns—toponyms)
- a ‘technical’ terminology
- standardised forms
- a normative function
- only denotations of terms
- a dictionary definitional style
- an etymological focus

How well placename dictionaries fulfil this cognitive function will depend on who their intended users are. A toponymist, geographer or linguist may require data on the etymology, geographic feature code, or toponym type. Historians, moreover, may require more information in the form of location of the named feature, who, when and why a particular placename was bestowed, or historical notes about the place named. Such information may often be better gleaned from dictionaries of places. On the other hand, tourists, interested in cultural authenticity and identity of places they are visiting may be interested in all of this information, as well as local attractions, facilities etc. In these cases, dictionaries of places are also the best source.

As seen in the preceding sections, a considerable range of placename publications exists. Some attempt to cover the entire nation, others concentrate on specific states or regions (e.g. the Hunter River region, NSW), whilst others may focus on certain types of placenames (e.g. Indigenous, French). There is also a considerable range in the type of intelligence provided under each entry in placename dictionaries. In what may be termed ‘pure’ placename dictionaries, the user is presented with toponyms, their etymologies, their designations, (in some instances) their locations, and their previous name forms.

Of course, dictionaries of places also have a cognitive function, but at a different level to placename dictionaries. In part such material may be the interpreted semantic comment element supplied by placenames dictionaries; more often it is encyclopedic material relating to geographical or historical aspects of the place.
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

If it is accepted that the purpose of a dictionary of places is to convey general information about a place, such as its name (and perhaps the origin of that name) and history, then, like placename dictionaries, dictionaries of places also have:

- a special purpose
- only nouns as headwords (proper nouns—toponyms)

However, unlike placename dictionaries, they have:

- non-technical language
- an encyclopaedic or narrative style
- a descriptive, non-normative function
- a non-etymological focus, instead concentrating on a place’s history and other information

As mentioned above, the quality of this information is often dubious and/or inconsistent.

Finally, given the popularity and profusion of placename dictionaries, and indeed dictionaries of places, it seems puzzling that they are very rarely dealt with in lexicographic and onomastic academic literature. They are, however, sometimes mentioned in the review sections of academic journals, but these reviews are generally superficial and quite uninformative, generally dealing only with the form and scope of entries. I have not been able to discover any discussion on the theoretical (let alone the practical) aspects and issues of placename publications.

4 THE FUTURE OF PLACENAME PUBLICATIONS

Given the rapid expansion and development of the internet and what it offers researchers and other interested parties, it is perhaps prudent to briefly consider the future of placename publications beyond the print medium.

The main question to be answered is: ‘What kinds of queries should a placename dictionary be able to satisfy?’ The answer naturally depends on who the intended users are. As outlined above, different users require different kinds of material. No print dictionary can satisfy the needs of all types of users. At a very minimum, it would entail the melding of ‘pure’ placename dictionary entries and the encyclopaedic-style entries of dictionaries of place. However, the large amount of information needed for each entry would restrict the total number of entries such a publication could contain, thereby significantly reducing its ultimate usefulness. An online dictionary, however, would solve this particular impediment because space is not an issue.

Some of the advantages of an online publication would include:

- cross-referencing to other toponyms via hyperlinks
- cross-referencing between other online dictionaries and encyclopaedias
- audio pronunciations
- images
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

- videos
- hyperlinks to all placenames depicted on maps
- natural language queries (e.g. ‘capital of Victoria?’)
- fuzzy spellings (e.g. Woolongong > Wollongong)
- searching by exonyms (e.g. Nieuw Zuid Wales > New South Wales)
- statistical information (e.g. the number of Sandy Creeks in Australia—732)
- toponym typologies using spider diagrams
- stored user profiles, and user defined filters/settings

These are just some of the possibilities offered by this medium.

So, what might an online dictionary of Australian placenames contain? Among other things, it could contain:

- information on:
  - scope and arrangement of the dictionary
  - relevance of toponyms
  - unique characteristics of Australian toponymy
  - features of the Australian toponymic systems
  - indigenous derived toponyms
  - introduced toponyms
- but also:
  - a toponym typology (by which all toponyms could be classified)
  - a glossary of geographic feature types (by which all toponyms could also be classified)
  - abbreviations used
  - catalogues of introduced toponyms from different languages, e.g. French, Dutch, German, Polish, etc.
  - maps showing toponyms catalogued in the dictionary
  - useful web links
  - references

The structure of individual entries could have the following arrangement:

**Toponym** [including different accepted spellings] / pronunciation/ [in audio ▶, and in phonetic as well as respelling forms]
Location (State, latitude & longitude)
Map reference
Feature type [type of geographic feature, e.g. BAY, STREAM, RESERVE, MOUNTAIN etc.]
Toponym type [Indigenous-derived or Introduced, and whether it is descriptive, associative, eponymous, etc.] (See ANPS toponym typology)
Traditional indigenous owners
Alternative and previous name(s) [if any]
Exonyms [foreign names for the toponym [e.g. Australisch Hoofdstedelijk Territorium for Australian Capital Territory]
Postcode [if any]
Population statistics [if any]
Parish / Municipality
Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

Electorates (State & Federal)
Description [of the place]
Origin of toponym [etymology, who bestowed the name, when, and why etc.]14
Meaning [of the name, if relevant]
History [of the place, and cultural significance of both the place and its name]
Local attractions [in, near or at the place]
See also [nearby places, places with the same name, web links, other references and sources etc.]

As can be seen, the entries in such a publication would reveal the melding of the placename dictionary and the dictionary of places. This would significantly increase and broaden the usefulness of the publication.

As a preliminary step towards this model, the ANPS model might be a useful one. The series ANPS Placename Reports is the Survey’s primary method of communicating data held in its Database. Report No. 3, Lord Howe Island (Blair 2015), serves as a good example. It demonstrates that placenames are presented in dictionary form—ordered alphabetically. The structure of the entries presents an effective method of displaying toponymic material that can be utilised in the compilation of a placename dictionary.

Each main entry in Blair’s Report consists of four sections, each relating to a separate stage in the process of identifying a placename and its origin. They are: Identification & Description; Related Toponyms; the Discussion; and the Documentation.

The ‘Identification & Description’ section consists of two subsections, concerned with identifying the toponyms by linguistic form, its location, and describing the feature type. The ‘Related Toponyms’ section presents any variant spellings of the placename that have been recorded, and any alternative names. These forms appear elsewhere as cross-referenced entries. The ‘Discussion’ gives the interpretation, or ‘story’, of the placename (at least as far as the evidence permits). This is the ‘information’ section of the entry, and seeks to answer the typical WH- questions of toponymy (WHO named the feature? WHEN was it named? WHY was it so named?). The proposed answer to the WHY question is further specified at the end of the section by the ‘Naming Typology’ code used by the Survey. The ‘Documentation’ section records some of the key documentary evidence on which the Discussion is based. Cross-referenced entries are structured in the same way as main entries, with three variations. The second subsection of the ‘Identification & Description’ section is naturally omitted; the ‘Related Toponyms’ section adds a cross-reference to the relevant main entry, in the forms A VARIANT OF or AN ALTERNATIVE NAME FOR; and the ‘Discussion’ section is absent, unless the form of the toponym is distinct enough to require its own explanation.

A diagrammatic guide to a main entry is presented in Figure 49, and an illustration of a typical entry in the Report is given in Figure 50.
Figure 49.
A diagrammatic guide to a typical main entry in ‘Lord Howe Island’
*ANPS Placenames Report, No. 3*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identification &amp; Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>ID Codes</th>
<th>LAT / LONG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malabar Hill OFFICIAL (ANPS 130, NSW 358323); 31° 29' 34&quot; S, 159° 02' 04&quot; E</td>
<td>HILL, a hill about 200 m south by west of Soldiers Cap and about 600 m north of Ned's Beach Common.</td>
<td>RELATIVE FORM: Malabar Hill; Mount Malabar; Mount Poole; North Peak; Poole Lookout; Pool's Look-out; The Malabar</td>
<td>FEATURE TERM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Toponyms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>typology code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>short reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>citation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 50.
A sample entry from ‘Lord Howe Island’ *ANPS Placenames Report, No. 3*

Note that the ANPS entries, unlike Ekwall’s *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names* (Figure 13), give historical citations to demonstrate the history of the placename form.

ANPS Occasional Paper No 5
Since data elements in the ANPS relational database are individually tagged, selection algorithms can provide a variety of possible outputs, including an online dictionary of Australian placenames.

5 CHALLENGES

The dispensing of either of these prescriptions is not straightforward because the compilation of a placename dictionary brings with it challenges that compilers of other types of dictionaries do not face. The most significant of these include the all too common lack of historical documents that detail or allude to the origin of a toponym. This leads to the inability to establish the motivation for the bestowal of many names. This in turn, affects our ability to accurately classify toponyms. For a host of historical, linguistic and cultural reasons, the origin and/or meaning of innumerable Indigenous-derived toponyms is also impossible to establish. Added to this is the extensive and time-consuming amount of research needed for many toponyms, for the task of tracing the origin and development of each toponym is a highly specialised endeavour involving detailed local knowledge, access to unpublished documents, and extensive fieldwork.

Finally, the sheer number of toponyms in Australia (sometimes estimated to be between 4 and 5 million) makes a full coverage impossible. No general dictionary can contain all the words of a language; likewise no placename dictionary can contain all of a nation’s or region’s toponyms. There are many more toponyms in Australia than there are words in the entire English language. For that reason alone, like the compiler of a general dictionary, the compiler of a placename dictionary must also decide which toponyms to include and which ones to exclude.

6 FINAL THOUGHTS

Like the compilers of general language dictionaries, compilers of placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places need to take into account who the users will be, and model their dictionary entries to ensure the highest degree of utility. Since most are not trained lexicographers, and in the absence of any theoretical literature on the subject, it is not surprising that their toponymic publications rarely achieve that standard. Lexicographers and toponymists should collaborate in developing solid guidelines for the lexicographic selection and presentation of toponymic data. This would ensure consistent and functional presentation of data, thereby increasing the cognitive functionality of the publication. These guidelines should be applied to both print and online publications. Given the type and amount of information that would ideally be presented in a dictionary of placenames or places, web-based publication (perhaps supplemented by an app for mobile devices) has a significant advantage. These media are flexible and will allow the dictionary to be continuously updated, and in addition significantly increase its cognitive functionality.
REFERENCES


*GeoNames*. https://www.geonames.org


Placename dictionaries and dictionaries of places

Tent, J. (2018a). ‘The low down on Yo Yo Creek.’ *Placenames Australia, September*, 1, 3-5.

60  ANPS Placenames Report No 5
ENDNOTES

1 An earlier and much shorter version of this paper was first published in 2009 as “The placename dictionary: Where to from here?” Australian Style, December, 16 (2): 4-6.
2 This statement requires explication. However, to do so would mean venturing into the vexed issue of names theory which has a long and complicated history within philosophy and linguistics. This is not the place to do so. Suffice to say, that given their special status, names therefore require a special kind of publication. Many theories and diverging views on the status of proper nouns and names exist. See for example the works by: John Stuart Mill, Gottlob Frege, Bertrand Russel, John Searle, Tyler Burge, Saul Kripke, Charles Sanders Peirce, Ludwig Wittgenstein, David Kaplan, Jacques Derrida, Eugeniusz Grodzinski, Jerrold Katz, and John Algeo to name but a few.
3 There are more than 20 John Howards listed in Wikipedia. Some include: John Howard, former Australian PM; John Howard, the Australian actor; John Howard, the US middleweight boxer; John Howard, a US physician, professor, and public health administrator; and John Howard, a US Olympic cyclist.
4 Throughout this paper the following terms will be used in relation to dictionary entries: headword (i.e. the toponym) forming part of the wordlist or toponym list; article forming the textual component after the headword (i.e. the data or description); and entry referring to the headword + article as a complete unit.
5 Philology is the study of the history of language, including the historical study of literary texts. Nowadays, philology comes within the purview of historical and comparative linguistics.
6 For a copy of this work see: https://archive.org/details/ita-bnc-in2-00001184-001/page/n0
7 In his A Dictionary of the English Language (1755), Samuel Johnson, at times exhibited subjectivity and prejudice in his definitions. For example: ‘Excise: a hateful tax levied upon commodities and adjudged not by the common judges of property but wretches hired by those to whom excise is paid.’ And, ‘Oats: a grain which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people.’
8 For a detailed description of Morden’s work, see York (2013).
9 In an onomasiological dictionary (such as a thesaurus), words and expressions are grouped according to their having similar or associated senses, or semantic fields, based on (for example) social, regional, or occupational grounds. A standard dictionary uses a semasiological approach in that it lists words alphabetically and then defines each independently without reference to any associated semantic field.
10 The entries for Amsterdam and Groningen are too lengthy and detailed to be included here. Suffice to say, they are very detailed in terms of the etymology of the names.
11 An endonym is a name for a geographical place used inside that place. An exonym is an external name for a geographical place, e.g. Germany is the English exonym, Allemagne the French exonym, Duitsland the Dutch exonym, and Deutschland the endonym.
12 Toponyms are regarded here as technical terms, as are all the terms used in toponymy.
13 Gazetted or official toponyms should have standardised spellings and, therefore, have a normative or prescriptive function.
14 Many of Australia’s toponyms have folk etymologies, e.g. Yo Yo Creek (see Tent 2018). Should these be included in our dictionary? I believe so, as long as they are clearly identified as such because it is always beneficial to dispel myths.
15 It is not unusual for research into a specific Australian placename to take many months.